

DTROT-066 Weekly Advocacy Report: February 14-18, 2022

Security and Border

Border Blockade

DTROT continues to engage with interlocutors in its territory around the impacts of the previous blockades at the Bluewater Bridge between Port Huron and Sarnia and the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor. Stakeholders are expressing concerns as to whether or not protesters could successfully renew the blockades. They are seeking information and assurance from Canadian authorities on how the country will prevent a reoccurrence from ever happening again.

Meeting with Columbus Partnership: On **February 17**, HonCon/Ujcz met **with Kenny McDonald, President and CEO of the Columbus Partnership** to discuss issues relating to the Canada-U.S. border, Ohio-Canada partnerships, and Intel's new semiconductor investment in Central Ohio. The Columbus Partnership is the leading business group in Central Ohio with members such as Honda, Cardinal Health, Scotts Miracle Gro, Nationwide Insurance, NetJets, Huntington Bank, LBrands, Abbott Labs, Advanced Drainage Systems, Greif, Cover My Meds, Alliance Data, The Ohio State University, Ohio Health, American Electric Power, and Battelle, among others. McDonald is an internationally known economic development/investment attraction expert having significant successes in leading the economic development organization in Charlotte, North Carolina and, for the past decade, Columbus, Ohio. McDonald secured the recent \$20 billion investment from Intel into Central Ohio.

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Personal Info.

Person: While he recognized that the recent border issues were an anomaly given COVID-19, he opined that it likely "will take years" for Canada to recover in terms of reputation in the economic development sphere. McDonald suggested that Canada needs to "do something" to show the business community and political leaders that recent events will not happen again in the future.

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Meeting with Ohio Business Roundtable: On **February 17**, HonCon/Ujcz met with **Avi Zaffini, VP, Strategic Initiatives, the Ohio Business Roundtable (OBRT)** to discuss issues relating to the Canada-U.S. border, Ohio-Canada partnerships, and the OBRT May 2022 CEO Summit. OBRT is the leading statewide association of CEOs, led by former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi. OBRT members include Honda, Cardinal Health, Marathon Petroleum, Owens Corning, Cliffs Natural Resources, P&G, RPM, Wendys, Worthington Industries, Red Roof Inn, Scotts Miracle Gro, Nationwide Insurance, NetJets, Huntington Bank, LBrands, Abbott Labs, Advanced Drainage Systems, Greif, Alliance Data, American Electric Power, and Battelle, among others. Zaffini is the former Chief of Staff to Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted and the former campaign manager for the Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R).

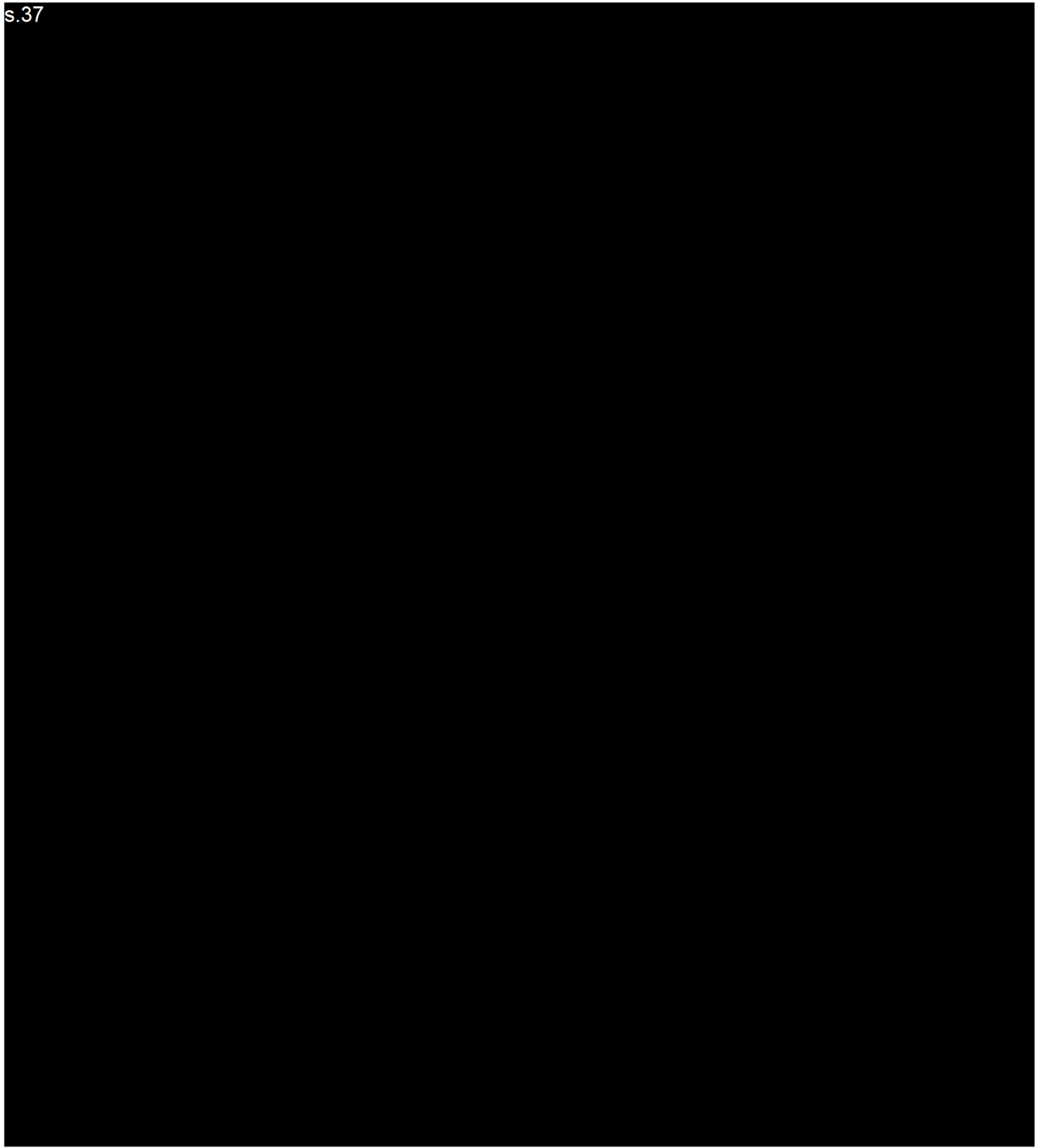
Zaffini advised that the recent border issues in Detroit-Windsor were "the very type of topic" that OBRT members are focused on and that he was concerned about the reputational damage to Canada's investment climate. He enquired as to "what is Canada do that is big to convince people this was a one-time event?" Zaffini went on to stress how important the Canada-Ohio relationship was to OBRT's

members and offered to host roundtables, meetings, supplier engagements, etc. "Whatever needs to be done to keep this relationship going." s.37

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Meeting with Ohio Chamber of Commerce: On February 17, HonCon/Ucjzo met with Stephanie Kromer, Director, Energy and Environmental Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce to discuss issues relating to the Canada-U.S. border and Ohio-Canada partnerships. Kromer is the key voice on legislation and advocacy in Ohio on Line 5, including securing resolutions from the Ohio General Assembly in support. Kromer briefly advised that Ohio Chamber members were expressing some concern regarding the border situation and suggested that this would be a good time for "Canada to do a full court press in the U.S. to show this will never happen again." She offered ongoing assistance to any activities for DTROT.

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